In the Claims

1-25 (Cancelled)

26. (New) A method of reducing the surface friction of the ball support surface of a golf tee in order to increase the distance a golf ball may be driven comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a surface layer consisting essentially of a friction reducing material having a surface coefficient of friction which is at least as low as that provided by polytetrafluoroethylene; and

(b) applying said layer to said ball support surface whereby a golf ball placed on said tee will contact only said surface layer.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the friction reducing material is a polymeric material and including the step of forming the surface layer in a shape conforming to the ball support surface of a tee having a circular rim.

28. (New) A method of minimizing surface area friction forces between a golf ball and a golf tee in order to increase the distance a ball may be driven comprising the steps of:

a) forming a layer consisting essentially of a friction reducing polymeric material;

b) shaping the surface of the tee which supports the ball so said surface slopes downwardly and away from points where the ball contacts the tee and

c) providing a contact surface that will be between the ball and the tee by applying said layer consisting essentially of a friction reducing polymeric material to said surface of the tee which supports the ball.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of shaping the ball support surface of the tee includes the further steps of:

i) forming a central depression in said surface of the tee, said depression having a circumference substantially less than that of a golf ball and having a peripheral rim upon which a golf ball may rest.

30. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the polymeric material is a fluorinated polymer selected from the group consisting of: polytetrafluoroethylene, fluorinated ethylene-propylene copolymers, perfluoroalkoxy polymers, and ethylene/tetrafluoroethylene copolymers.

31. (New) An improved golf tee comprising:

a) a head whose upper surface is a ball support surface;

b) a shaft for supporting said head, said shaft being insertable into the ground;

c) a surface layer covering said ball support surface, said surface layer consisting essentially of a friction reducing polymer having a surface friction at least as low as that provided by polytetrafluoroethylene; and

d) said ball support surface being shaped so that said surface layer that conforms thereto will be the only contact surface supporting the ball on the tee.

32. (New) The tee of claim 31 including an adhesive which has been applied to the surface layer to adhere same to the head of the tee.